Statement II

Purchase of shares of Kovalam resort

Description of the land:

The hotel is located at Thiruvananthapuram - 695527, Kerala on a plot of land measuring approximately 2578.40 hectares of freehold and bounded on the North by Vellar Panchayat area, on the South by Panchayat Road to Hawa Beach, on the East by Kerala Tourism Development Corporation Samudra Hotel and on the West by the Sea.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR):

The current FAR applicable is 200%.

Area constructed:

The total area constructed is approximately 31,525 square metres.

Foreign tourists in Assam

1438. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited Assam during the last three years;

(b) the reason for low flow of foreign tourists in Assam; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to boost tourism industry in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Foreign tourists arrivals in Assam have shown a steady increase during the last three years, as will be seen below:

Year	No. of Tourists
2001	6171
2002	6409
2003	6610

Process of development of tourism in the country including state of Assam is an ongoing process. During the year 2003-04, an amount of

Rs.313.46 lakhs were sanctioned and Rs.313.06 lakhs released to the state of Assam, for development and promotion of tourism.

Development of tourism in UP and Maharashtra

†1439. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the place selected by Government for development of tourism in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra during the current year; and

(b) the plan formulated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism also extends financial assistance for development of tourist places of national and international importance identified in consultation with them. The process of identification of tourist places of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra to be taken up for development during the current financial year have not been completed so far.

Tourists visiting Agra

1440. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of tourists who visited India during the last three years and how many out of them visited Agra to see Taj Mahal;

(b) what is the average time spent by them; and

(c) whether there is a proposal or plan to see that the tourists spend more money and time in Agra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The information regarding the number of foreign tourists who visited India and subsequently visited Taj Mahal during the last three years is as follows:

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.